BANGSAMOROPEDIA PROFILE SUBMISSION

For Review and Inclusion

1. Submission Details

Full Name: Sayyid Captain Kalingalan Caluang (also known as Apuh Inggal)

Field of Contribution: Military / Resistance Leadership / Bangsamoro Political History

Why Notable: World War II guerrilla commander and Bronze Star Medal recipient; co-founder of Ansarul Islam; key facilitator of early MNLF training; namesake of the Municipality of Kalingalan Caluang, Sulu.

2. Biography

Personal Background and Lineage

Sayyid Captain Kalingalan Caluang, popularly known as Apuh Inggal, was a Tausug military officer, guerrilla leader, and community champion from the Sulu Archipelago in the southern Philippines. He is identified as: Kalingalan, son of Caluang, son of Panglima Bandahala, son of Sattiya Muno, son of Sayyid Qasim. His family descends from the Ba'Alawi sada of Hadhramaut, Yemen — a lineage traced to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) — and oral traditions further link them to Balfaqi Alawi, one of the seven Sufi missionaries known among the Tausug as the Lumpang Basih, who brought Sunni Islam to the Philippines alongside Sayyid Makhdum Karim.

His grandfather, Panglima Bandahala, was a close adviser and relative of Sultan Jamalul Kiram II, serving as Municipal President and peace emissary of the Sulu Sultanate. Panglima Bandahala also held the hereditary duty of overseeing the Gibha ceremony, an indispensable rite for the formal investiture of a Sultan. This deep institutional role gave the Caluang family enormous spiritual and political standing within the Sulu royal tradition. Kalingalan Caluang himself followed Sunni Islam of the Ash'ari creed and Shafi'i jurisprudence.

Kalingalan Caluang's mother, Apoh Hajja Norma, served as wet nurse to Princess Tarhata Kiram, underscoring the intimate familial bonds between the Caluang family and the Sulu royal household.

World War II Service (1942–1945)

During World War II, Kalingalan Caluang served as a guerrilla officer under the Sulu Area Command, fighting Japanese occupation forces in the Sulu Archipelago. His unit, Company B, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, operated under extremely adverse conditions — including severe food shortages lasting more than three months during the Japanese siege of Tawi-Tawi from April to July 1944.

His wartime record was distinguished by acts of initiative, resourcefulness, and steady leadership. Notable actions include:

- In August 1943, then-Lieutenant Caluang arrived at Batobato from Borneo via kumpit, delivering critical aid including cash loans and donations totalling US$10,000 in British North Borneo dollars, clothing, quinine, and stationery — joined by the late Lieutenant Moro Rugasaan, Sgt. Imam Marjukim, Private Gurabi Hanud, and Chinese patriot Dr. Elbert I. N. Kwok of Jesselton.
- On 22 March 1945, upon receiving intelligence that Geyutai fighters had escaped from Solari Island, he immediately dispatched two interception patrols under Lieutenants Molijon and Bahjin.
- On 23 July 1945, during attacks at Lower Maul, his company maintained cohesion and effectiveness despite inferior arms and unfavourable terrain.

He was formally recognised with the Bronze Star Medal, awarded under Executive Order No. 9419 (4 February 1944) by the Commanding General of the 41st Infantry Division for meritorious achievement in the Sulu Archipelago. He additionally received written commendations from Lieutenant Colonel Alejandro Suarez (125th Infantry Regiment) and Major M. S. Bonilla (3rd Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment).

A significant episode that predates his formal recognition involves his role in the early resistance in Sabah. In 1942, two Bornean leaders and a Chinese doctor travelled to Sulu seeking Tausug assistance in building a credible military resistance movement in British North Borneo. Impressed by the guerrilla unit known as the Tapikan (the Fighting 21), Captain Kalingalan dispatched Tausug combatants to Sabah under the command of Datu Mustapha, utilising the sea transport of Tuan Hadji Mohammad Nur Omar. These fighters helped establish organisation, training infrastructure, and an arsenal in Sabah. Although their camp was later destroyed by enemy bombing, Datu Mustapha survived until the arrival of British Liberation Forces in 1945, who installed him as Chief Minister of Sabah in recognition of his resistance work — a direct fruit of Kalingalan Caluang's wartime cooperation.

Post-War Political Activism: Ansarul Islam and the BMLO

The Jabidah Massacre of 1968 — in which Tausug military recruits were killed after refusing to take part in a covert Marcos government operation aimed at reclaiming Sabah — became a catalyst for organised Moro resistance. Jibin Arola, the sole known survivor, brought the incident to national and international attention. In the wake of this atrocity, Kalingalan Caluang joined fellow Muslim leaders including Rashid Lucman, Salipada Pendatun, Domocao Alonto, Hamid Kamlian, Udtog Matalam, and Attorney

Macapantun Abbas Jr. to found Ansarul Islam (Helpers of Islam) and the Bangsamoro Liberation Organization (BMLO). These organisations championed Moro rights and laid the ideological and organisational groundwork for the armed resistance that followed.

The goodwill cultivated during World War II proved consequential for the next generation's struggle. Tun Mustapha — by then Chief Minister of Sabah — maintained a brotherly relationship with Kalingalan Caluang rooted in their wartime bonds and shared descent from the Sultans of Sulu. Through Tun Mustapha's facilitation, the first cadre of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighters (among them Al Hussein Caluang) received military training in Sabah after an initial period in Luuk, Sulu — the township later renamed in Kalingalan Caluang's honour. Subsequent training cohorts included 300 fighters in base-attack tactics in 1972 and 60 in artillery in 1973, while Sabah also welcomed thousands of Bangsamoro refugees during the Martial Law period.

Nur Misuari, then a University of the Philippines professor, affiliated himself with Ansarul Islam because of his academic reputation. After the MNLF fighters completed training, Kalingalan Caluang's son Yahya Caluang was dispatched to Sabah to bring them home; upon arrival, Misuari declared himself leader of the MNLF. Misuari later sought — and received — forgiveness from Apuh Inggal, an episode that illustrates both the tensions and the enduring respect within the Bangsamoro leadership.

Kalingalan Caluang also demonstrated diplomatic acumen by ensuring the safe return of Dr. Pacifico Marcos to Zamboanga during this volatile period, further cementing his standing as a trusted mediator.

Legacy

On 6 December 1975, Presidential Decree No. 838 established the Municipality of Kalingalan Caluang in Sulu, named in his honour, in formal recognition of his contributions to the region and to the Bangsamoro people. His life embodied the intersection of Islamic heritage, guerrilla valour, and political leadership that shaped the modern Bangsamoro identity.

3. Reliable Sources

Primary and Secondary Sources:

Espaldon, E. (1997). With the Bravest: The Untold Story of the Sulu Freedom Fighters of World War II. Bureau of Public Printing. (p. 210)

Velasquez, M. A. [CPT]. Sulu Area Command [roster and history]. Retrieved from https://archive.org/details/sulu-area-command

Quiling, Mucha-Shim (2020). "Lumpang Basih." Journal of Studies on Traditional Knowledge in Sulu Archipelago and Its People, and in the Neighboring Nusantara, 3.

Montalvan II, A. (2013, March 11). "The Last Sultan." INQUIRER.net.

Fallon, J. E. (1989, August). "Igorot and Moro National Reemergence." Fourth World Journal, 2(1).

Caluang, C. "The Hero Sayyid Kalingalan Caluang." Retrieved 20 May 2023. https://medium.com/@calhussin96/the-hero-sayyid-kalingalan-caluang-cf175c3ee8ad

Caluang, F. C. H. (2023, May 29). "Kalingalan Caluang, the Tausug Hero." Medium. https://medium.com/@calhussin96

Caluang, F. C. H. (2024, September 14). "Ansar El Islam (Helpers of Islam)." Medium. https://medium.com/@rabbaniMahdi

Jilah, H. A. U. (2025, August 26). "The Two Great Tausug Heroes" [Facebook post]. https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1PmH8Ukym9/

Presidential Decree No. 838 (6 December 1975). Republic of the Philippines.

4. Photo

Note: A clear photograph of Sayyid Captain Kalingalan Caluang will be attached separately with this submission, as required by BangsamoroPedia guidelines.

Submitted for BangsamoroPedia review — prepared from documented oral history, military records, and published references.